UNITED NATIONS **S**

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31 August 1999

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LETTER DATED 30 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF RWANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith a press release from the Office of the Vice-President of Rwanda and Minister of Defence, Major General Paul Kagame.

Bearing in mind my country's genuine security concerns, it is my hope that the information contained herein will enable members of the Security Council to understand my Government's strong commitment to the speedy and smooth implementation of the Lusaka Peace Agreement.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Joseph W. MUTABOBA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Rwanda to the United Nations

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Annex

Press release dated 30 August 1999 from the Office of the Vice-President and the Minister of Defence of Rwanda

The Government of the Republic of Rwanda looks forward to the speedy and smooth implementation of the Lusaka Peace Agreement. The Vice-President and Minister of Defence of the Republic of Rwanda, Major General Paul Kagame, said this when addressing the National Assembly of the Republic of Rwanda this afternoon.

Vice-President Kagame reaffirmed Rwanda's commitment to the Lusaka Peace Agreement, saying aspects of it addressed both Rwanda's security concerns and the wider internal problems of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He added that the Lusaka Peace Agreement committed all signatories to the prevention and punishment of genocide, to putting an end to collaboration with and assistance to Interahamwe and to locating, identifying, disarming and deporting them. Rwanda looks forward to full compliance and cooperation from all signatories.

The Vice-President also briefed the National Assembly on the recent clashes between the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA) and the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) in Kisangani. He said that the clashes were avoidable and regretted that they had occurred between the two brotherly armies. He reminded members of the National Assembly that RPA, supporting Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) rebels, had captured Kisagani on 23 August 1998, and a subsequent agreement with UPDF two weeks later had led to joint control of the city. When Professor Wamba moved to Kisangani, his activities and relationship with UPDF created and heightened misunderstandings, which led to a shoot-out between it and the RCD Goma faction on the weekend of 7 August 1999. RPA was caught in the crossfire but maintained its defensive positions.

The clashes of 14 to 17 August 1999 between RPA and UPDF are the subject of investigations between the RPA Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Kayumba Nyamwasa, and the UPDF Commander, Major General Jeje Odongo. The Vice-President said he preferred to leave the details of what happened in Kisangani to the investigation team rather than pre-empting the report. However, he assured parliamentarians that the report would be completed soon and that they would be informed about its contents.

Vice-President Kagame assured members of the National Assembly that relations between Rwanda and Uganda have been and are good. He said the leaders of both countries regretted that not enough was done in good time to prevent the clashes. He said both countries shared a common vision of peace, stability and development in the region. He emphasized that the speedy resolution of the Kisangani clashes at the talks at Mweya Lodge on 16 and 17 August 1999 and also at Rwakitura demonstrated the good relations.

Speaking about the divisions within RCD, the Vice-President said the divisions were very unfortunate, and that Rwanda had never encouraged them. He recalled that the divisions began to emerge with the creation of the Mouvement de liberation du Congo, led by Jean-Pierre Bemba. This was contrary to Rwanda's

advice to the DRC opposition to form a united front. The divisions were exacerbated when Professor Wamba dia Wamba moved to Kisangani in circumstances difficult to understand, alienating himself from the main body of the movement based in Goma. There have been several efforts to reunite the RCD factions at meetings held in Dodoma, Dar es Salaam and Kabale.

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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 31 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

1. On 6 July 1999 a group of Iraqi fishermen were the victims of acts of piracy carried out in the Iraqi territorial waters between the ports of Mina' al-Bakr and Khawr al-Amiyah by Kuwaiti coastal patrols. The fishermen were blindfolded and had their hands tied, and were taken, with their boats, to the Kuwaiti interior. There they were subjected to physical torture, interrogated and photographed.

2. Two days later, they were moved to a different building, where they were fingerprinted and kept in solitary confinement until 19 July 1999.

3. Their boats remained impounded when the men were released: they were taken to a place in the Umm Qasr area, close to the Iraqi borders.

I should be grateful if you would intervene with Kuwait with a view to halting such provocative practices and acts of aggression carried out by Kuwaiti patrols. There has been a recent, unjustified increase in these incidents, which are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law, and also constitute a threat to the sovereignty and security of the Republic of Iraq.

The Republic of Iraq reaffirms its right, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility, to demand legal reparation for the losses sustained by Iraq and its people through these acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 62
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 27 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to our letter dated 29 July 1999, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 28 July 1999, as well as on 4, 17, 19 and 22 August 1999.

On 28 July, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a southeasterly direction.

On 4 August, one C-130, as well as two C-160 Turkish military aircraft, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The C-130 and one C-160 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a southeasterly direction. The second C-160 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria before landing at 1236 hours at the illegal airport of Tymbou, in the occupied area of the Republic, whence it departed at 1711 hours, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 17 August, one BE20 Turkish aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at 0954 hours at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, whence it departed at 1513 hours, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

On 19 August, one F-4 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The F-4 violated the national

airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a southeasterly direction.

On 22 August, one BE20 Turkish aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria before landing at 0857 hours at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic, whence it departed at 1006 hours, returning to the FIR of Ankara.

As stated in my previous letters, these Turkish unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules, and at the same time in contravention to the provisions of Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey, which demonstrate once more Turkey's blatant disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I would also like to underline that the present violations occurred after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1251 (1999), in which the Council called upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. My Government expects that the Turkish side will show compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolutions.

Such provocative actions are not conducive to reducing tension and run counter to the initiative of the Secretary-General announced on 30 September 1998 within the framework of his Mission of Good Offices, with the goal of reducing tensions and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

Furthermore, the continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force, as well as the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative